(d) the details of steps proposed by Government in ensuring that our exports are not restricted by false excuses, etc.; and

(e) the effectiveness of such steps taken by Government to counter the non-Tariff barriers being used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) There are various procedural requirements, in addition to Customs tariffs, imposed by all countries on international trade. Some times these procedural requirements act as barriers and are called non-tariff barriers. Indian exporters face such barriers from time to time in several countries including the developed countries. The problem arising due to non-tariff barriers are duly taken up with the concerned authorities of the country concerned bilaterally with a view to their early and mutually satisfactory resolution. Certain issues, that are not resolved this way, have been taken up for resolution through WTO's Dispute Settlement Mechanism. In the WTO negotiations, India has co-sponsored proposals along with some other developing countries to disallow use of measures by developed countries that make exports difficult for developing countries.

Inter State Council for promotion of exports

3575. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up an Inter State Council for promotion of exports;

(b) if so, what is the mandate of this Council;

(c) when is the Council going to be set up and who is going to head the Council; and

(d) how many times in a year will the Council meet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) It is proposed to set up an Inter State Trade Council to engage the State Governments in providing an enabling environment for boosting international trade.

(b) The proposed terms of reference of the Council are:

(i) To identify impediments that affect the exports adversely.

(ii) To evolve uniform practices across different States in respect of trade facilitation.

(iii) To identify issues relating to State Governments with regard to capacity building under WTO, infrastructure development and creating an overall supportive Policy and fiscal environment for international trade.

(iv) To create a framework by making States a partner in India's export effort.

(c) and (d) The Council will be headed by the Commerce and Industry Minister and will meet as required.

EPZs/SEZs/FTZs/AEZs in Bihar

3576. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Export Processing Zones/Special Economic Zones/ Foreign Trade Zones/Agri Export Zones in Bihar;

(b) how do those activities compare with the activities of the above mentioned zone in other States; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure fair and equitable share of Bihar in those activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Setting up of an Agri Export Zone (AEZ) for lychees was approved on 5.3.2002 by the Steering Committee on AEZs on the basis of proposal received from Government of Bihar. The zone was notified by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade on 16.7.2003. Subsequently, honey and vegetables were also included.

There is, however, no Export Processing Zone/Special Economic Zone in Bihar. There is also no scheme called the "Foreign Trade Zones".

(b) The intervention required in each AEZ for horticulture products differ from one State of another depending on the existing infrastructure, the extension and training services required, the marketability of the product etc.

(c) The Foreign Trade Policy provides a transparent and non-discriminatory framework for promotion of export activities for the country as a whole.